

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**  
**OFFICE OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY**  
**NEPA DETERMINATION**



RECIPIENT:Purdue University

STATE: IN

**PROJECT TITLE** : Understanding the Golden Eagle sensory world to enhance detection and response to wind turbines

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0001554	DE-EE0007882	GFO-0007882-001	GO7882

Based on my review of the information concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (authorized under DOE Order 451.1A), I have made the following determination:

**CX, EA, EIS APPENDIX AND NUMBER:**

Description:

<b>A9 Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination</b>	Information gathering (including, but not limited to, literature surveys, inventories, site visits, and audits), data analysis (including, but not limited to, computer modeling), document preparation (including, but not limited to, conceptual design, feasibility studies, and analytical energy supply and demand studies), and information dissemination (including, but not limited to, document publication and distribution, and classroom training and informational programs), but not including site characterization or environmental monitoring. (See also B3.1 of appendix B to this subpart.)
<b>B3.3 Research related to conservation of fish, wildlife, and cultural resources</b>	Field and laboratory research, inventory, and information collection activities that are directly related to the conservation of fish and wildlife resources or to the protection of cultural resources, provided that such activities would not have the potential to cause significant impacts on fish and wildlife habitat or populations or to cultural resources.

Rationale for determination:

DOE is proposing to provide funding to Purdue University (Purdue) to measure key components of the visual and auditory systems of golden and bald eagles and to run behavioral tests in wildlife rehabilitation centers to determine the responses of eagles to combinations of visual and acoustic stimuli.

This project would be completed in three phases. Phase 1 would include project planning, design, fabrication and testing of equipment. Phase 2 would include identifying candidate eagles and traveling to the rehabilitation centers to conduct visual and auditory measurements. Phase 3 would involve developing stimuli based on results of Phase 2 testing, conducting additional tests eagles housed in rehabilitation centers, developing recommendations for visual an acoustic deterrents, project reporting, and journal submissions.

University, state, and federal permits are required to handle and process golden and bald eagles. The Purdue research team has two federal permits that allow collection of tissue from salvaged bald and golden eagles across the continental U.S. The research team has permits from approximately 35 states allowing salvage of eagles and eagle tissue. Formal approval from the USFWS would be required prior to eagle handling activities. An approved animal care and use protocol from the Purdue Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee would be required prior to live bird handling. Agreements with the animal care facilities would be approved prior to completing work at each facility.

All project activities would take place at existing facilities. Portable equipment would be transported and set up at existing facilities, but no new construction or modification of existing facilities would occur. All wastes generated by the project would be discarded following the policies of the rehabilitation center where the waste is generated.

Based on the review of the proposal, DOE has determined the proposal fits within the class of action(s) and the integral elements of Appendix B to Subpart D of 10 CFR 1021 outlined in the DOE categorical exclusion(s) selected above. DOE has also determined that: (1) there are no extraordinary circumstances (as defined by 10 CFR 1021.410(2)) related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal; (2) the proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion; and (3) the proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts, related to other proposals with cumulatively significant actions, or an improper interim action. This proposal is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

**NEPA PROVISION**

